

CLAIMS

1. A secure intermediation method performed by an intermediary positioned
5 along a communication path between a first network node and a second network node,
comprising:

receiving a session request from the first network node, wherein the session
request comprises a request to initiate secure communications between the first network
node and the second network node; and

10 in response to receiving the session request, establishing a first secure session
between the intermediary and the first network node, establishing a second secure session
between the intermediary and the second network node, and linking the first secure
session with the second secure session to enable communication between the first and
second network nodes.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first secure session and the second
secure session are secure socket layer sessions.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first network node is a client node and
20 the second network node is a server node.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the session request is addressed to the
intermediary.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the session request is addressed to the second network node.

5 6. The method of claim 1, wherein linking the first secure session with the second secure session includes receiving data from the first network node in the first secure session and sending the received data to the second network node in the second secure session.

10 7. The method of claim 1, wherein linking the first secure session with the second secure session includes receiving data from the first network node in the first secure session, performing an intermediation service on the received data to create intermediated data, and sending the intermediated data to the second network node in the second secure session.

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8. A secure intermediation method performed by an intermediary positioned along a communication path between a first network node and a second network node, comprising:

receiving a session request from the first network node, wherein the session
20 request comprises a request to initiate a secure session between the first network node and the second network node; and

in response to receiving the session request, establishing a first session between the intermediary and one of the first and the second network nodes, wherein the first

session is a secure session, establishing a second session between the intermediary and the other of the first and second network nodes, and linking the first session with the second session to enable communication between the first and second network nodes.

5 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the first session is a secure socket layer session.

 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the first network node is a client node and the second network node is a server node.

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 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the session request is addressed to the intermediary.

 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the session request is addressed to the
15 second network node.

 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the second session comprises communications over a wireless network.

20 14. The method of claim 8, wherein the second session comprises communications over a virtual private network.

15. The method of claim 8, wherein linking the first session with the second session includes receiving data from the first network node in the second session and sending the received data to the second network node in the first session.

5 16. The method of claim 8, wherein linking the secure session with the communications channel includes receiving data from the first network node in the second session, the method further comprising:

performing an intermediation service on the received data to create intermediated data, and sending the intermediated data to the second network node in the first session.

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17. A secure intermediation method performed by an intermediary positioned along a communication path between a client node and a server node, comprising:

receiving a session request from the client node, wherein the session request is a request to initiate secure communications between the client node and the server node;

15 in response to receiving the session request, establishing a secure session between the intermediary and the server; and

after establishing the secure session, receiving data from the client node, and sending the received data to the server over the secure session.

20 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the secure session is a secure socket layer session.

19. In a secure intermediation system, a method performed at a client node comprising:

5 sending a session request addressed to a server node, wherein the session request comprises a request to initiate a secure socket layer session between the client node and the server node;

receiving a certificate in response to the session request;

determining that the certificate corresponds to an intermediary positioned along a communications path between the client node and the server node; and

10 establishing a secure session between the client node and the intermediary.

20. An intermediation system comprising:

session request logic operative to detect a session request sent from the client node, wherein the session request comprises a request to initiate a secure session between the client node and the server node;

15 session initiation logic operative to establish a first secure session with the server node, the session initiation logic being responsive to the detection of the session request by the session request logic; and

linking logic operative to enable communication between the client node and the server node.

20 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the session initiation logic is further operative to establish a second secure session with the client node, and wherein the linking logic is operative to link the first secure session with the second secure session.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the first secure session is a secure socket layer session.

5 23. A secure intermediation system, comprising:

a network interface;

a processor; and

data storage, wherein the data storage stores instructions executable by the

processor (i) to receive a session request from the client node, wherein the session request

10 comprises a request to initiate secure communications between the client node and the server node; (ii) to establish a secure session between the intermediary and the server in response to receiving the session request; (iii) to receive data from the client node after establishing the secure session; and (iv) to send the received data to the server over the secure session.

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